

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Update on the improvement plans at Iroquois Middle School and Southern Leadership Academy (Jefferson County Public Schools) and Holmes Junior/Senior High School (Covington Independent School District)

### **Applicable Statutes or Regulations:**

KRS 160.345; KRS 160.346

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** At the January 2007 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) voted to transfer school council authority of Holmes Junior/Senior High School (Covington Independent School District) to the superintendent. It further voted to approve the Holmes Junior/Senior High School council to act in an advisory capacity until its' authority has been restored when the school meets its goal for an accountability cycle as determined by the Kentucky Department of Education under KRS 158.6455.

The KBE voted to transfer school council authority of Iroquois Middle School (Jefferson County Public Schools) to the superintendent. It did not authorize the Iroquois Middle School council to act in an advisory capacity until authority has been restored to the council when the school meets its goal for an accountability cycle as determined by the Kentucky Department of Education under KRS 158.6455.

At Southern Leadership Academy both the school and the district audit teams recommended the transfer of the council's authority to the superintendent; therefore, the application of KRS 160.346 provided for the commissioner of education, rather than the KBE, to transfer the authority and to determine whether the school council should continue in an advisory capacity. Under KRS 160.345, the Interim Commissioner, Kevin Noland transferred council authority to the superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools and further determined that the Southern Leadership Academy School council should not continue in an advisory capacity, effective December 21, 2006.

Additionally, the KBE proposed during the February meeting that Jefferson County and Covington Independent superintendents draft school support plans to guide district and school improvements in low performing schools. The Board further requested each superintendent to convey their improvement plans to the Board for review and to be available for questions at the April KBE meeting. Attached for the Board's review are the improvement plans for these schools in preparation for the discussion with district staff.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

For the first time, the local district superintendent will have the authority to implement local school governance in low performing schools. In addition, systemic improvement plans will be implemented with school, district, local board, and Kentucky Department of Education personnel collaborating for improved student performance. The improvement plans will include actions to assist and strengthen low-performing schools in Jefferson County and Covington Independent School Districts

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education****Date:**

April 2007